Inter-Connected All India Cellular Services

1135. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken/are being taken towards starting of inter-connected All-India Cellular Services, all over the country,

(b) whether private operators are to be involved by connecting the cellular systems to All India Telecom System; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COM MUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Cellular Service is at present operational in the four metro cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Cellular networks are connected with the public telephone network of Deptt. of Telecom providing nationawide and international access. Cellular network in Telecom Circles will also be connected to public telephone network as and when they are operational.

(b) No, Sir. The Cellular networks are directly connected to the public telephone network of DoT.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Irrigation Facility in Gujarat

1236. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is lagging behind the national average in respect of irrigation facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to increase irrigation facilities in the State with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture upto 1992-93 (latest), the percentage of net irrigated area to total cultivable area in Gujarat was 21.4% as compared to national average of 27.2%.

(c) Steps taken by the Govt, of Gujarat to increase irrigation facilities in the State are as under:—

1. Providing canal lining in old canal systems which are unlincd;

2. extension, renovation and modernisation of old canel systems;

3. adoption of sprinkler/drip irrigation method;

4. economical and optimum use of irrigation water;

5. Implementation of various recharge works such as recharge wells, percolation tanks, village tanks, spreading channels and minor schemes as well as check dams;

6. transfer of water for irrigation purpose from surplus area to deficit area through connecting link canals and pond system;

7. tapping surface water resources through medium and minor irrigation schemes.

8. early completion of on-going major and medium project.

New Telephone connections in Kerala

1237. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections to be released in Kerala during the next financial year; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COM MUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI

PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The number of telephone connections to be released in Kerala during the next financial year has not been finalised yet.

Retaining of Arms by ULFA

1238. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of members of United Liberation Front of Assam have been permitted to retain arms after their surrender;

(b) if so, the names of such members with reasons in each case;

(c) whether large number of members of ULFA have been found involved in several crimes after their surrender;

(d) if so, the names of such members with nature of crimes committed by them;

(e) whether some of surrendered members have been provided with personal security; and

(f) if so, their names with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (f) An identical Question was raised by the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament in Rajya Sabha which was admitted as Unstarred Question No. 669 for 6.3.19%, to which an Assurance was given on the floor of the House. The said 'Assurance was fulfilled vide this Ministry's O.M. No. 13013/6/96-NE.IV dated the 11-9-1996. Kind attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the information furnished therein.

Additional export-quota for cotton yarn

1239. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared an additional export quote of 15 millions Kgs. for cotton yarn during 1996 as the ceiling of 80 million kg. has been fully exhausted;

(b) if so, the total exports till date of cotton yarn during the current year as compared to the last year corresponding period indicating figures alongwith value in terms of rupees; and

(c) whether the industry has demended an enhanced ceiling for 1997 in view of the buoyant trend in the country's exports; if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have enahnced the ceiling for export of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts for 1996 by 15 million kgs. i.e., from 80 million kgs to 95 million kgs.

(b) The exports of cotton yarn have amounted to 323.91 million kgs valued at Rs. 3859 crores during the period January—October, 1996 as compared to 192.94 million kgs valued at Rs. 2475 crores exported during the corresponding period of 1995.

(c) The Government fixes the quantitative ceiling for export of cotton yarn on a year to year basis. As in the past, the Cotton Yam Export Policy for 1997 would be announced after careful consideration of all relevant factors, such as production and domestic demand in respect of raw cotton, production and prices of cotton yarn, requirement of yarn for the decentralised handloom sector etc.

Villages without post offlce/PCO' In Madhya Pradesh

1240. SHRI SURESH PACHORI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which have post offices and PCOs till date;

(b) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh are without post offices and PCOs as on date;

(c) whether Government have any time